

FINAL 2006 REPORT
ON THE
TEN-YEAR REVIEW OF
SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT PERMITS

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

November 2006

2006 REPORT ON THE TEN-YEAR REVIEW OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PERMITS – November 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under the Virginia Waste Management Act and the Solid Waste Management Regulations, at least once every ten years, the Director must review and issue written findings on the environmental compliance history of each permittee, material changes, if any, in key personnel, and technical limitations, standards, or regulations on which the original permit was based. The reviews are to be undertaken in accordance with time periods established by regulation of the Virginia Waste Management Board for different categories of permits.

This report presents the results of a review of all active solid waste management facility permits issued after June 30, 1996 but prior to July 1, 1997, as required by statute and regulation. Two (2) permits in this time frame have not closed and have been reviewed for this report.

The review included both an environmental compliance history review and a technical review. The environmental compliance history review consisted of a compilation of the past ten years of inspection records. The findings include the number of inspections conducted each year and the number of alleged violations. The requirements for disclosure statements, including changes to key personnel, were among the criteria examined in the environmental compliance history review. The technical review compared the contents of the existing, individual permits to the contents now required for issuance of a permit. Over the years, the permitting standards have been changed by statute, and by amendments to the governing regulations in May 2001, and September 2003. The findings of the technical review identify the components, or modules, that are required in current permits but that have not been included in the existing, individual permits.

By statute, if the Director finds repeated material or substantial violations of the permittee or material changes in the permittee's key personnel that would make continued operation of the facility not in the best interest of human health or the environment, the Director shall amend or revoke the permit. Also, the Director may amend the permit to include additional limitations, standards or conditions when the underlying standards have been changed by statute or regulation, or as otherwise provided by law.

The Director solicited comments on the report and findings from facilities that are subject to the review. Comments from the public were also accepted. The comment period closed at 5:00 p.m. on August 21, 2006.

Any permit amendment will take place in accordance with the Virginia Waste Management Act and the Virginia Administrative Process Act.

The Director retains authority to revoke, amend, or suspend permits in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The Director also retains authority to address violations of statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements by order or other remedy, including immediate action as necessary, in appropriate circumstances.

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AUTHORITY AND BACKGROUND

This *2006 Report on the Ten-Year Review of Solid Waste Management Permits* is issued pursuant to Virginia statutory and regulatory requirements.

The Virginia Waste Management Act, at Va. Code § 10.1-1408.1 E., requires the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (Director and Department, respectively) to review and issue written findings on specific aspects of permitted solid waste management facilities at least once every ten years. The reviews are to be undertaken in accordance with time periods established by regulation of the Virginia Waste Management Board for different categories of permits. The pertinent part of Va. Code § 10.1-1408.1 E. states as follows:

At least once every ten years, the Director shall review and issue written findings on the environmental compliance history of each permittee, material changes, if any, in key personnel¹, and technical limitations, standards, or regulations on which the original permit was based. The time period for review of each category of permits shall be established by Board regulation.

The same section of the Code addresses amendment or revocation of solid waste management permits based on the required review and findings:

If, upon such review, the Director finds that repeated material or substantial violations of the permittee or material changes in the permittee's key personnel would make continued operation of the facility not in the best interests of human health or the environment, the Director shall amend or revoke the permit, in accordance herewith. Whenever such review is undertaken, the Director may amend the permit to include additional limitations, standards, or conditions when the technical limitations, standards, or regulations on which the original permit was based have been changed by statute or amended by regulation or when any of the conditions in subsection B of § 10.1-1409 exist. The Director may deny, revoke, or suspend any permit for any of the grounds listed under subsection A of § 10.1-1409.

¹ "Key personnel" means the permit applicant and any person employed by the applicant in a managerial capacity, or empowered to make discretionary decisions, with respect to the solid waste operations. See Va. Code §10.1-1400.

The Virginia Waste Management Board established by regulation that the first review of permits would address facilities in existence prior to July 1, 1991 and facilities permitted after July 1, 1991 would be reviewed prior to the ten year anniversary of permit issuance.² Two (2) solid waste management facilities with permits issued after June 30, 1996, but prior to July 1, 1997 have been reviewed for this report. One of the two permits reviewed has not been constructed and therefore has not been inspected by the Department. A technical review was performed on this permit since the facility has a valid permit issued by the Department, allowing it to construct a facility to manage solid waste. Prior to commencing operation, this facility will be inspected by Departmental staff to ensure construction of the unit meets current standards.

In accordance with the statute, the review included both an environmental compliance history review and a technical review.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE HISTORY REVIEW

The environmental compliance history review consisted of a compilation of information from the Department's inspection records. The information included the number of inspections conducted each year and the number of alleged violations. The requirements for disclosure statements, including changes to key personnel, were among the criteria examined in this review.

Staff from the Department's regional offices conducted environmental compliance history reviews for the facilities located in their region. Staff examined all available inspection records between 1996 and 2005. From this review, a simple tabulation was made of the number of inspections conducted and the number of alleged violations recorded. For consistency, worksheets were developed for conducting the reviews. The same worksheet was used for all types of facilities included in the review.

TECHNICAL REVIEW

The technical review compared the contents of the existing, individual permits for the facilities to the contents now required for issuance of a permit. Over the years, the permitting standards have been changed by statute, and by amendments to the governing regulations in May 2001 and September 2003.

Staff from the Department's Northern Virginia Regional Office and the Central Office conducted and proofread the technical reviews. In particular, both of the permits were reviewed to ascertain whether it contains the documentation required in a current solid waste management facility permit, as specified in the Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations (VSWMR),³ including requirements of the Virginia Waste

² Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations (VSWMR), 9 Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) 20-80-100.C.

³ 9 VAC 20-80-10, et seq.

Management Act. The standards of VSWMR address the design, construction, operation, monitoring, closure, and post-closure maintenance for landfills and other solid waste management facilities, as necessary. Applicable permit elements, or modules, or portions of such modules, that are not included in existing, individual permits issued between June 30, 1996, and July 1, 1997 were identified during the review.

The statute requires the Department to review the "technical limitations, standards, or regulations on which the original permit was based." Both of the permits subject to this review were issued prior to current regulations. The findings of the technical review are only to identify the components, or modules, that would be required to be included in a permit issued by the Department today that have not been included in the existing, individual permits. The technical review does not include a review of documents that facilities may have developed or submitted for approval in accordance with regulatory requirements, but that have not been included in the permit itself. Therefore, a notation in the technical review that a component or module is not included in a permit does not necessarily imply that a facility lacks a plan approved by the Department addressing that element or that the facility is out of compliance. It may mean, however, that the documents that have been developed, submitted, or approved are not entirely consistent with the current requirements for issuance of a permit.

Additionally, the department issues permit amendments on a routine basis. Information reflected on the Permit Review Checklist reflects contents of the permit on the date the permit was reviewed. Some permits may have been amended since the review of their permit was conducted. The Department will consider any additional amendments or modifications the Department has approved since reviewing the permit when considering criteria for amending permits.

As before, for consistency, a worksheet was developed for conducting the reviews. A separate worksheet, specific to the type of facility, was completed for each facility to document the content of the facility's permit compared to current requirements.

COMMENT PROCEDURE

The Director solicited comments on the report and findings from facilities that were subject to the review. This report does not discuss the merits of any alleged violations. Concerns about any alleged violation were addressed with regional compliance staff at the time the facility was notified of the alleged violation.

Copies of this report were mailed individually to both of the facilities that were subject to the review. Comments from the public also were accepted. The comment period closed on August 21, 2006.

Only one comment was received, from the consultant for the Rappahannock Regional Solid Waste Management Board Landfill (SWP 589). The commenter asked the Department to recheck the validity of five alleged violations (two in 2004 and three in

2002) that had been recorded in the draft compliance review worksheet (Appendix 1) and posted on the Department website for comments between June 19 and August 21, 2006. As a result of the Department's additional review, it was determined that the two violations originally recorded for 2004 had been improperly assigned. The worksheet in Appendix 1 and tables 1 and 2 were revised accordingly in the final report. The Department responded that the records of the three alleged violations from 2002 appear to be accurate. The 2002 records remain in the Appendix 1 and elsewhere in the final report. The permittee was notified of this response by letter on October 24, 2006.

FINDINGS

The findings of the Ten-Year Permit Review are the product of the environmental compliance history review and the technical review. The written findings for individual facilities are contained in Appendices 1 and 2, as described below. Summary information is provided in Tables 1 and 2.

The findings of the environmental compliance history reviews for landfills are provided in Appendix 1, which contains a Compliance Review Worksheet for both landfills subject to this report. The compliance criteria are listed in the first column of each worksheet. The number of inspections conducted at the facility by year is provided in the first two rows of each worksheet. The number of times an alleged violation was cited in the inspection reports for a particular year is displayed in the cell corresponding to the criteria and year. Each worksheet also presents the average number of alleged violations per inspection.

A summary of the environmental compliance history review for all landfills reviewed is included as Table 1. It lists the number of inspections, the number of alleged violations, and the average number of alleged violations per inspection for all landfills subject to this report. Table 2 shows the total alleged violations and the total alleged violations per inspection for individual landfills. These tables show that some facilities have more instances of alleged violations than others do.

The findings of the technical reviews for landfills are provided in Appendix 2, which contains a Permit Review Checklist for each landfill subject to this report. The first part of the worksheet contains information on the landfill, the reviewer, and a history of permitting activities (amendments and variances) for the facility. It also contains a summary of the comparison of the existing permit to the current regulatory requirements. The remainder of the worksheet for each facility details the current requirement, whether that requirement is found in the existing permit, the source of the requirement, and comments.

AMENDMENT OR REVOCATION OF PERMITS

As noted, under the governing statute, if the Director finds repeated material or substantial violations of the permittee or material changes in the permittee's key personnel that would make continued operation of the facility not in the best interest of human health or the environment, the Director shall amend or revoke the permit. Also, the Director may amend the permit to include additional limitations, standards or conditions when the underlying standards have been changed by statute or regulation, or as otherwise provided by law. Any permit amendment is subject to the requirements of the Virginia Waste Management Act, Va. Code § 10.1-1400, et seq., and the Administrative Process Act, Va. Code § 2.2-4000, et seq.

The Director retains authority to revoke, amend, or suspend permits in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The Director also retains authority to address violations of statutory, regulatory or permit requirements by order or other remedy, including immediate action as necessary, in appropriate circumstances.

**Table 1- Total Alleged Violations
Landfills (Sanitary, CDD, and Industrial Landfills)**

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	TOTAL
Number of Inspections	4	4	4	4	12	12	7	4	1	4	56
Alleged Violations	9	3	0	0	0	0	3	6	0	0	21
Average Alleged Violations	2.25	0.75	0	0	0	0	0.43	1.5	0	0	4.93.

Average Alleged Violations per Inspection: 0.38

**Table 2- Individual Facilities Alleged Violations
Landfills (Sanitary, CDD, and Industrial Landfills)**

Facility Name	Permit #	DEQ Region	Total Alleged Violations	Average Alleged Violations Per Inspection
Rappahannock Regional Solid Waste Board Landfill	589	NVRO	21	.38
Laural Valley Center Landfill (Culpeper County)*	590	NVRO	0	N/A

** Denotes facilities that have not been constructed.*

Appendix 1 - Compliance Review Checklists for Landfills

**Sanitary Landfills, Construction & Demolition Debris Landfills, and
Industrial Landfills**

*This appendix is available as a separate download from the
Department's website.*

Appendix 2 - Permit Review Checklists for Landfills

Sanitary Landfills, Construction & Demolition Debris Landfills, and Industrial Landfills

*This appendix is available as a separate download from the
Department's website.*

Note: The technical review does not include documents that facilities may have developed or submitted for approval in accordance with regulatory requirements, but that have not been included in the permit itself. Therefore, a notation in the technical review that a component or module is not included in a permit does not necessarily imply that a facility lacks a plan approved by the Department addressing that element or that the facility is out of compliance. It may mean, however, that the documents that have been developed, submitted, or approved are not entirely consistent with the current requirements for issuance of a permit. Facilities that lack current, facility specific permit modules remain subject to their existing permits, any approved plans, and the standards in the applicable regulations.